

# The Autobiography of the German Reptile in America

This is the first of a series of three articles which Mr. Frost has prepared from the long and circumstantial testimony before the Senate committee investigating the character and extent of German propaganda in this country from the beginning of the war. It behooves every American to know the facts in this reptilian conspiracy against the interests of our country perpetrated by Germany's agents. Mr. Frost has done the reading public a service in thus condensing into narrative form the great mass of fact brought out in the Senate inquiry. His articles are, of course, based entirely on that testimony.

By Stanley Frost

THIS is the biography of a Reptile—the most monstrous, most loathsome, most deadly and most secretive reptile that America has ever known—a reptile with the cunning and the conscience of the fiend that lurked in Eden, armed with all the weapons of modern science, and created to destroy and to feed upon all that makes America.

This Reptile is the German propaganda. Till now it has been only vaguely seen and sensed as a living menace among us, though the results of its workings have been recognized—always tardily. For no sooner has it been exposed to the light than it has changed its form, often before our unseeing eyes, or vanished, to reappear shortly in some new and more deadly disguise.

Only within the last few weeks has the camouflage been stripped from its coils. Under authority of the United States Senate those services of our government which have been struggling in secret with the Reptile have laid before a committee of Senators the facts that they have learned about it. These facts have come piecemeal, a line here, a detail there, and it is only now that the picture begins to stand out as a whole, in all its naked villainies.

Even yet the picture is not complete. It probably never will be, for the Reptile is already taking on new forms, is already busy with new plots of corruption. Great pieces of its body have been hewn away or killed for exposure to the light lights—but the remnants are infinitely greater than all that has been destroyed and they reunite and put on new heads and newly poisoned fangs, as often and as fast as the injuries are inflicted. Moreover, even these secret services have often never seen the form of the menace they are fighting; they have had to strike almost blindly, in darkness, against this power of darkness, striking so many times they have driven it back and saved us, but have left the Reptile as strong as ever for a new attack.

## Scotched, but Not Killed

So the dangers pictured in this biography are not the dangers that menace America to-day from this Reptile—these are dangers that are past. But the Reptile itself, with its purposes and its methods and its powers and its host of servants—it remains; and from new quarters, and in new forms, but with the same deadly poison it is now attacking us and will continue to attack. The government's secret services can do much against it, our laws can do a little, but the chief protection must be found in such a wide knowledge and understanding of the Reptile that its workings may be recognized and thus be defeated by being revealed whenever and wherever and in whatever guise they may appear.

Fortunately for us, the Reptile has the weaknesses of his breed, a love of orderliness in his crimes, a passion for recorded detail of conspiracy and for filed documents to mark his trail. Thousands of these records and documents have fallen into the hands of our government, and these, together with the confession of the Reptile's agents, tell the greater part of what we know about his life. So this history is really an autobiography—the autobiography of the German Reptile in America.

This Reptile's work has been, and is and will be, the corrupting, tricking and deceiving of American public opinion, of our morals, conscience, patriotism—the ruin and killing of our national soul. There have been other German beasts at work among us—the beast of frightfulness, which sank our ships and bombed our factories, and the beast of commercialism, which is only now reaching its full strength. These all worked hand in hand with the beasts of militarism and conquest, which have devastated the world.

The purpose of them all is the same—the exalting of Germany at all cost. They have been controlled by the Kaiser, but they did not die when he abdicated. Nor has the fall of the German army and the destruction of her fleet killed them. They are of the breed of Kultur, which is more than a government or an army.

And the hearts are all alike; nowhere do they admit any recognition of the rights of others, of international law, of common decency. They work through trickery and deceit, they depend on lying and circumvention to gain their ends. They consider no damage too great to inflict, no crime too awful for too vile to be glorious in their eyes. If it helps even a little toward those ends. Not all of their agents whose names appear in the records have sunk so low, but such are the souls of the beasts.

With the new revelations of the Overman investigation it is possible to trace accurately the forms through which these parties of the propaganda in America, as those forms have changed to meet the changing conditions. There came first lies about the cause of the war, glorification of German virtues and purposes, more lies about Belgium, and as soon as the German armies met a check, lies about it and its invincibility. Soon appeared attacks upon the Allies, truthful where the truth would serve, more lies when there was nothing else at hand. These centered on Britain and Russia. Then came the effort to prevent the shipment of munitions and food to the Allies, backed by dishonest arguments about German sales of munitions to others, and always the appeal to America's hatred of

object, followed an attempt to float German loans here, and a simultaneous attack on support of the Allied loans as unneutral. Then there was the effort to raise sympathy for the "starving" babies of Germany, cloaking the effort to break the British blockade and get through munitions for the slaughter of babies in Belgium and France.

Finally, as America refused to take these baits, came the U-boat war and the mass misrepresentation spread in its behalf. There came peace drives, with stories which we now know to have been ridiculous about the spirit of democracy in Germany and the wakening of the German people to the desire for a freedom that would end militarism. As America drew nearer entrance into the war came the efforts to create distractions, the fomenting of trouble in Mexico, in Cuba and of feeling against these countries and against Japan. Along with all these was the campaign against preparedness for war. And, once we were in the war, there were spread the poisons of defeatism, of distrust of our military leaders and of German invincibility, as well as labor unrest and every measure calculated to impede our belated preparations for war.

To accomplish its ends, according to the official testimony, the Reptile used whatever means it could find, rejecting no possible crime. It sought to buy men who it believed would have influence in our public councils. It made secret and corrupt use of all our avenues of publicity—newspapers and the sources of news, advertising, writers of all classes, books, pamphlets, literature of every imaginable kind, lectures, plays and even films. It appealed to every class hatred or distrust in America, organized the German-Americans, reached after the Irish and the Jews and the Lutheran clergy, worked upon the Socialists, supported the I. W. W., at least a little, attempted to control or disorganize labor, and even stirred up discontent and laid the seeds for disorder among the negroes in the South.

Nor did it stop in the United States. Our secret services have presented proofs that the Reptile, from its lair here, reached far abroad. Alfred L. Becker, Deputy Attorney General of New York, testified that his own work had given proof of propaganda in "the whole of South America, Mexico and Central American countries, Cuba, Porto Rico, Spain, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, Persia, India and, in addition, all the countries at war with Germany." For this purpose there was a network of wireless stations—established mostly before the war—and the German agents of all kinds joined vigorously in the work and enlisted the men of German blood, whatever their legal and nominal allegiance to the countries to be corrupted might be.

The methods of the Reptile were the methods of Kultur, adapted as need arose to the conditions in hand. It told the Catholic that the Church was with Germany, the Protestant that Germany hated the Church. It derided militarism to the socialist, praised it to the imperialist. It was always dishonest.

At first, in America, the Reptile lied openly, circulated false statements over the German name. But even from the first it prepared and spread its poison anonymously or under other names than its own. And when it appeared that America would have none of its open propaganda it sugar-coated all its doses and disappeared as a public organ, though working more powerfully than before.

Its greatest aim was to get Americans to father its lies and its arguments. It engaged men secretly, men who should work openly for an "Americanism" made in Germany. It subsidized publications and bribed the employees of those that could not be reached. It organized threats against others. It put out false news reports, and had two agencies for this—one that was "semi-official" and another through which it could circulate reports with which even it did not want to be connected. It filled the land with spies and secret propagandists, it organized all who could be reached or deceived, it struck powerfully into our politics, it enriched and protected its friends and attacked its enemies—who were the friends of America. It even "framed up" evidence with intent to deceive the State Department.

For this purpose it was powerfully financed. How much was used by the German beasts of all kinds in America may never be known, and certainly is not known to-day, but it is known that this particular Reptile handled over \$35,000,000. It spent more than \$1,700,000 on a single project. It had connections with more than a score of American banks, including some of the biggest in the country, and through them it succeeded in using many others. By shifting accounts and the use of cashier's checks to cover payments it was able to use this money so subtly that often it may pay

## The Whole Story of the German Game of Prying, Spying, Bombing and Propaganda, Condensed From the Bielaski Revelations

ally hated the country they were unwittingly aiding. Here are the banks with which the Reptile dealt, all being in New York unless otherwise noted: The Chase National, the Mechanics and Metals National, the Equitable Trust, the Guaranty Trust, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., the German-American Bank, the Lawyers Title and Trust Company, the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, the Fulton Trust Company, Speyer & Co., G. Aminek & Co., Chandler & Co., the Merchants Loan and Trust Company, Chicago; the Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago; the First National, of Cleveland; the Wisconsin National Bank, of Milwaukee; the St. Louis Union Bank, of St. Louis; the Mississippi Trust Company, of St. Louis, and the First National Bank, of Boston.

Ambassador Count Johann von Bernstorff, sent here under diplomatic privileges and immunities as an honored guest of our government, was the head of the Reptile in America. Under him, in supreme charge of the propaganda, were, first, Dr. Richard Dornburg, and, after he had failed and slunk home, Dr. Heinrich F. Albert. With them worked Franz von Papen and Karl Boy-Ed, also "diplomats," and more interested in other German activities than this. Other chiefs of the propaganda were Dr. K. A. Fuchr, brought from Japan for the purpose, and Franz von Rinteln, sent later from Germany.

With the propaganda bureau worked also all the consular and other representatives of Germany in America and elsewhere, and a group of thirty-one propagandist experts sent from Germany as soon as the war started and long trained for this very purpose. In addition there was hired a body of workers and agents which has never been estimated, but which ran above fifty in one particular office, the Chicago branch office of the Liebig Relief Bureau, a rather minor affair—of which the records have been seized. And finally there was what may be called the private of the organization, the volunteer workers enrolled wherever there was a German agent. There were more than 300 of these in Cincinnati; Boston had a thousand or twelve hundred. Here is the description given by Captain George B. Lester, of the Military Intelligence Division, of these volunteers:

"That list not only included propaganda workers, but men who had volunteered to stay in this country to work in munitions plants, to stay in this country and get information of a military character and form part of the silent army that Germany kept over here, of which there were two or three hundred thousand working right with them all the time."

This was the machinery that sprang full-sized into activity in America almost on the day that Germany launched her world war. It was no sudden creation. It had been planned and prepared and trained as Germany had prepared and trained her military forces. Its strategy and tactics had been carefully studied and drilled into its officers and men. A foundation for its work had been laid through long years—even in America.

"Since 1894," Captain Lester testified, "the pan-German propaganda has been systematically distributed from Germany over all the United States, South America, China, Japan—every country." In America, besides placing men of the type of Hugo Munsterberg, the Harvard professor, and promoting such things as the German museum at Harvard and the Bismarck celebration at Ann Arbor, Mich., work was done through the German-American Alliance and the state and local organizations of hyphenates associated with it.

## A Kiltured School Of Scandal

At home Germany had also been preparing. Captain Lester told how every member of the various German government departments, even in the cities, and including judges, civil servants, diplomats and all, had been required to send in reports stating their fitness for work of this kind in foreign countries. This machinery was set in motion in June of 1914—before there was a war cloud on the horizon of the world, before even the Austrian Archduke was assassinated in Sarajevo, Germany summoned 130 of these men to Berlin and put them in a special school, where for weeks they were lectured and drilled under a system of intensive training for just this work. Before the world suspected war they were told that they were to be sent abroad and why.

Thirty-one sailed with Dr. Albert in August of 1914 for America. Already the policy of secrecy was enforced, and some came in the steerage, some in the cabins and some as ship employees, so that the group would not be identified. The whole

distributed to the four quarters of the globe.

They found their assistants waiting for them. George von Skahl was one such. He had been a German reserve officer, had come to the United States, had become a citizen—the German Delbrück law permits a German to become a citizen of a foreign country without giving up his allegiance to Germany, and had even been appointed Commissioner of Accounts for New York City by Mayor McCallan. He had also been an editor of the "Staats-Zeitung." He was made a part of the German propaganda in America as far back as 1909, when he made a trip to Germany, saw the chief of the Intelligence Department of the Army General Staff, and agreed to work in the German military attaché's office in America in event of war and "be in touch with the press, tell them what should be done with the press, etc. Von Skahl and the others were ready and went to work.

## Berlin the Mainspring

Behind this organization, directing it and coordinating its work with that of the other German beasts, was a complicated machine in Berlin. In spite of the frequent complaints of the German agents here that they were "cut off" from contact with their government, the contact was subject to only short and minor interruptions till after the time Bernstorff left for home. Wireless stations, working even under the nose of government censors, passed code messages; underground channels transmitted letters, photographs, literature—even films. The most troubling affairs were promptly reported to Wilhelmstrasse; the most minute orders came back.

Here is the outline of the Wilhelmstrasse machinery, as learned by the secret services of our own and the Allied governments: The press and propaganda bureau of the Foreign Office.

The chief censors bureau of the Foreign Office.

The press bureau of the German War Department.

The press bureau of the German Navy Department.

The press bureau for the influencing of neutrals.

The central section for foreign news service.

The relations between these various bureaus are not clearly understood, but the Reptile here was in touch with all of them, and did work for all.

With the arrival of Dr. Albert and his staff in September, 1914, the Reptile got vigorously to work. Throughout the first phase of its work there was a certain amount of openness about it—some German agents spoke and wrote over their own names and some German propaganda was sent out frankly labelled. Not all of it. From the first there was secret propaganda going on and the underground methods were used. But the peculiarity of this phase, which lasted till soon after the sinking of the Lusitania, was that it did have a touch of honesty.

It also had more than a touch of dishonesty, and some of this was of a kind that brought down the censure of von Bernstorff after it had failed. This was in the subsidizing of such magazines as Marcus Braun's "Fair Play." Bernstorff's complaint was that it could not be kept secret, and also that the men subsidized were never satisfied with what they got, and that they practically blackmailed the Germans into making them permanent pensioners.

The first proceeding of Dr. Albert was to organize the German Information Bureau, putting M. B. Clausen, who had been press agent for the Hamburg-American Line, at its head. It sent out a daily sheet of the news carrying whatever German propaganda was most called for at the time. The camouflage was there. Though supported by the German government, the sheets bore this label: "Conducted by M. B. Clausen at the request of a number of American citizens who believe the public desires to be informed as to both sides of the war, that it may form its own opinion from the facts."

This label was kept there long after Dr. Albert had admitted to his staff that there was no complaint to be made as to the falseness or trustworthiness of the news that came through the British controlled cables. The charge of unfairness in the British reports was always one of the stock weapons of the Germans.

Clausen, Fuchr, Albert, George Sylvester Viereck, of "The Fatherland" magazine, and Dr. Edward Rumely, later prominent as the nominal proprietor of the German-owned "New York Evening Mail." The minutes of this committee have fallen into the hands of the Department of Justice, and a few extracts from them give a vivid picture of the aims and methods of the Reptile at this time. The extracts given are from the first meeting, held on November 5:

"Our efforts must not only be continued but must be greatly enlarged. The majority of Americans will evidently not, through choice, be restricted in this way, but through the consciousness that America is entirely unprepared, and therefore not in a position to carry out a strong independent policy. With dazzling German successes at arms the balance of public opinion here would presumably be shifted.

"The belief which apparently spread very recently that Americans received only one-sided or colored news from Europe has not for eight weeks been true. The fact that from the German side this is still being emphasized is calling forth unwilling comment in the local papers.

"Two subjects which must be strictly avoided are Kultur and every criticism of American sympathy.

"The daily news letter (from the Foreign Office) will be very effective. It is, however, necessary that for the news contained therein proofs should be sent here.

"With reference to the handling of American correspondents in Germany, it is to be emphasized that as much as possible should be shown them. We must avoid every appearance of mixing in American matters, but at the same time continue to demand 'fair play.'

"In detail, the following is to be remarked: The wishes of the American-Irish.

"Of importance, in connection with the Irish question, is that the German press will suppress anti-Catholic utterances as much as possible, and, on the contrary, all pro-Catholic utterances should be minutely reported here.

"So far as German-Americans are concerned, they desire to assume a firmer tone, and His Excellency is of the opinion that in this they should not be hindered. It is to be regarded as justifiable for them to say: 'We are good Americans. Let it, however, in memory of our ancestors, not happen that Germany is debased here.'

"With reference to the American press, it is to be remarked that public opinion here on vital questions cannot be influenced in any substantial way through the press.

"In spite of all this the American press demands evidently our greatest attention and activity. State Secretary Dornburg has decided to do substantially more in this direction. Through direct bribery there is nothing to be done. But it is said that one can work on reporters and with the smaller editors who edit the cable news and the headlines.

"His Excellency has considered taking into the service the famous clever journalist McClure as manager for an exhaustive press campaign, which will cost about \$50,000 at the very least. It will probably result from this that shortly, through agents, the attitude of the influential people in the large cities will be established, and then the pro-German element will be called upon to so work upon the individual anti-German organs that the papers will change their tone. Substantial views of the masses can be trained against England through interviews with such business men as are interested in neutral shipping."

## Search for "Inside Wires"

The use of American names to float the propaganda was begun promptly. William Bayard Hale—of whom much more will be heard in connection with the propaganda sent from Germany—was apparently engaged for the work for which McClure is suggested above, and was paid at the rate of \$15,000 a year. Edward Lyell Fox, another well known American writer, was also engaged, as was Major J. J. Dickinson, the latter not as a writer, but to collect information from his friends in the government at Washington and forward it to the Reptile.

Through all this there ran the hope that in some of these men, Hale particularly, the Germans would obtain an "inside wire" to the White House and would be able to influence the government. A Bruce Bielaski, chief of the Secret Service of the Department of Justice, told of these efforts.

"The Germans employed Hale," he said, "not only to secure his services as a propagandist, but in the hope that through him they might get some approach to the President. Dornburg took up with Hale his desire to see the President, and Hale endeav-

President declined to see him. They were always proceeding on the assumption that if they could get some one who could get inside they could do something."

The "List of Important Names" found among the Fuchr papers shows how far the Germans carried this effort to use Americans. Some of the names are of men never reached, and a few are of Germans, but the majority, as Mr. Bielaski pointed out, are those which are familiar to us as having been active for Germany. The list follows:

Professor William R. Shepherd, Columbia University; Professor Hugo Munsterberg, Harvard University; Professor William M. Sloane, Columbia University; Dr. Edmund von Mach, Harvard University; Dr. Arthur von Briesen, 25 Broad Street, New York; Professor John W. Burgess, Newport, R. I.; Professor Eugene Smith, Columbia University; Professor Herbert C. Sanborn, Vanderbilt University; Professor James G. McDonald, University of Indiana; Professor Ferdinand Schevill, University of Chicago; E. C. Richardson, Princeton University; Professor Kuno Franke, Harvard University; Professor George B. McClellan, Princeton University; Professor A. B. Faust, Cornell; Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., University of Wisconsin; Dr. Walter McNeil, Richmond, Va.; Professor David Starr Jordan, ex-Judge Peter S. Grosscup, Congressman Richard Barthold, Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, Harvard University; President C. J. Hexamer of the German-American Alliance, Professor William F. Trent, Charles Nagel, former Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Oswald Garrison Villard, "New York Evening Post"; William Randolph Hearst, "New York American"; Bernard Riddler, "New York Staats-Zeitung"; Edward A. Rumely, "New York Evening Mail"; Frederick R. Schraeder, New York City; Frank Harris, "Pearson's Magazine"; Robt. L. Ford, "The Freeman's Journal"; the Rev. Father Thierney, "American Catholic Weekly"; Max A. Hein, New York City, and George Sylvester Viereck.

The circulation of pro-German books written by these and other men was one of the largest of the early activities of Dr. Albert. He even engaged Professor Edwin John Clapp, of New York University, to write one, at a cost of some \$15,000. The book, of course, was written for "us Americans." More than fifty such books got the German stamp.

Pamphlets were also sent out broadcast. A list of nearly a hundred was furnished by Mr. Bielaski, and these range all the way from frankly pro-German arguments by German writers to the most carefully camouflaged "Americanism." A few were: "Belgium and Germany: A Dutch View"; "Germany of To-day"; by George Stuart Fullerton, of Columbia University; "The Neutral Portion"; "America's Relation to the World War," by John William Burgess, formerly professor at Columbia, and so forth.

All these were printed in this country. In addition, Captain Lester told how vast quantities of pro-German literature were actually sent from Germany for circulation here. Part of this staff was used as the basis for the propaganda written here, and parts were shipped to other countries. There is evidence that enormous quantities were sent into Mexico and some to the Orient. Also, there were great quantities of picture postal cards sent over, with cartoons and pictures glorifying Germany, many of them indecently.

Another form of propaganda which was got under way during this phase of the work was the production of films. This failed as a commercial scheme, though it had a certain propagandist success. Its consideration belongs more properly with the next phase of the Reptile's activities. So, too, does the work of the subsidized war correspondents, like Hale and Fox, who went to Germany in German pay, and of the lecturers who went about the country with addresses censored, if not prepared, in the Reptile's offices. All this activity was started early in the war, but did not bear fruit till later.

Starts were made, too, on the campaign for the control of newspapers, and on the propaganda among the Lutherans, the Irish and the Jews, and also among laborers. These all reached their highest point during the succeeding phase of the propaganda, and can best be viewed as a whole when that is reached. But three other forms of activity along the line of publicity belong to the first phase.

The first of these was the "working of the pro-German element on the anti-German organs" which was outlined in the minutes of the propaganda committee already quoted. This was widespread, and often effective. Throughout the cities where the German element is large, and especially where it is entrenched in business, pressure was brought to bear on publishers to an extent which was almost irresistible. The withdrawal of advertising, the cutting down of circulation, the threat to start

banks which handled the newspapers' obligations, were all resorted to.

The next of these was direct and open advertising—not by acknowledged German agents, of course, except in the case of the warning to Americans not to sail on the Lusitania—but by admitted pro-German, or at least pacifist, and paid for by German money. The most ambitious of these schemes was concocted by Rumely and handled by Louis N. Hammerling, and resulted in the publication in several hundred foreign-language newspapers of advertisements calculated to cause labor disturbances, if not violence, in all plants engaged in the manufacture of munitions and supplies for the Allies. Another scheme of Rumely had to do with an advertising campaign in the South, presumably in connection with cotton, but this phase of the campaign ended before it could be put into effect, and it was dropped.

The third activity was in the subsidizing of magazines. Viereck's "Fatherland" and "International Monthly" were two of these. Viereck was classed by Mr. Bielaski with Hale and Rumely—"they were hanging around where there was a lot of money, each one trying to get all he could from the representatives of Germany." Viereck was most anxious, as his correspondence shows, that even Hale, whom he suggested as a co-editor, should not know of the subsidy he was getting. He got \$250 a week for "The Fatherland," the correspondence indicates, and he got a regular allowance, the extent of which is not clear, for "The International."

Another publication, which got about \$10,000 in all, was "Fair Play," owned by Marcus Braun, politician and editor, of New York City. This sheet the Reptile felt was of little use, and was going to withdraw the subsidy, when Braun pointed out that he would have to go into bankruptcy, with consequent undesirable publicity, and the Reptile made a financial settlement to get out of the deal.

Along the same line, but much bigger, was the proposed contract with the American Press Association, a concern furnishing "boilerplate" news to hundreds of small papers throughout the country, of which Courtland Smith, a brother-in-law of Arthur Brisbane, was the directing head. Albert got a thirty-day option for a controlling interest at \$300,000. Another \$300,000 would have had to be used in developing the investment. The memorandum of the option follows:

"1. The American Press Association places its whole organization at the disposal of Mr. H. E. Albert, in order to spread pro-German news or to suppress anti-German news or to make pro-German propaganda in any other way compatible with its organization. It is understood that this arrangement shall be kept within the limit of sound business principles; i. e., that the pro-German propaganda shall not be more so-called than compatible with not diminishing the profits of the organization. It must absolutely be avoided that the American Press Association become a recognized pro-German organization.

"2. This arrangement to be valid from July 15 until October 31, 1918. Within this time Mr. H. E. Albert has to declare whether he will make use of the option to buy control of the aforesaid organization by paying the sum of \$300,000.

"3. As compensation for extending the option to October 31, and placing the good-will of the association at the disposal of Mr. Albert, the aforesaid association will receive \$—, payable the first of each month. Mr. Albert will designate his delegate who will confirm, if necessary, in daily conferences with Mr. Smith, the general policy to be pursued and the practical steps to be taken.

"4. If the option is exercised the sum stipulated in 3 will be deducted from the final payment to be made under this contract."

This option was never exercised—the whole memorandum is, however, the frankest statement made in the Reptile's records of his methods and objects in seeking control of agencies of publicity.

## The Death Blow

This phase of the propaganda came to an end shortly after the sinking of the Lusitania. Perhaps the final deathblow was given by the publication in August of 1915 of a part of the papers which secret services took from Dr. Albert, and which furnished America with its first real glimpse of the Reptile that was working here. Dornburg, after hiding with friends for several days, finally sneaked home to escape the wrath aroused by his defection of the Lusitania massacre. A dispatch from Bernstorff, dated October 19, 1915, lauds and sums up quite perfectly this phase of the work, and the reasons for the new policy which was undertaken on its collapse:

"The fact of an American paper being subsidized can never be kept secret, because there is no reticence in this country. It always ends in my being held responsible for all the articles of any such newspaper."

"I have, therefore, with much satisfaction to myself, at last succeeded in getting out of all relations with the 'Fair Play' of Mr. Marcus Braun. I should also be glad to be free from 'The Fatherland,' which has shown itself of little value. It is particularly difficult in a hostile country to try to find suitable persons for help of this sort, and to this, as well as to the Lusitania case, we may attribute the shipwreck of the German propaganda initiated by Dr. Dornburg. Now that opinion is somewhat improved in our favor, and we are no longer ostracized, we can take up the work again. . . . This form of payment (subsidies) is unavoidable, because one can never get free of the recipients. They all wish to become permanent pensioners of the Empire, and if they fail it that they try to blackmail us."

In another dispatch he says: "At the beginning of the war many things were undertaken by the Dornburg propaganda which would never have been undertaken if we could have seen that the war would last so long, because nothing can for long be kept secret in America."

This ended the first chapter of the Reptile's history in America. After it the Reptile went more deeply underground, used more perfect camouflage and turned to new methods, while holding on to that that had not yet been exposed. This last phase of its history will be taken up